

Appl. No. 10/665,995
Amdt. Dated June 10, 2005
Reply to Office Action of March 10, 2005

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 remain pending in the application. Claims 11-12 are already allowed.

Drawings

Applicant has amended Figs. 1, 2, 7 and 8, and amended drawing sheets are attached hereto. In each of Figs. 1 and 2, the label for a prism has been changed from '1' to '11,' so that these figures are consistent with the specification. In Fig. 7, the text of items 2013 and 2026 has been corrected for informalities. In Fig. 8, the text of item 2028 has been corrected for an informality.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102(e)

Claims 1-8, 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Gunjima (U.S. Patent RE38,305). Applicant traverses the rejection as follows:

Applicant acknowledges that Gunjima discloses a light guide plate, at least a light source disposed at one side of the light guide plate, a diffusion plate, a polarizing sheet formed on the diffusion plate, and a polarized light separator sandwiched between the diffusion plate and an LCD panel. Gunjima further discloses that a plurality of prisms are disposed on a surface of the diffusion plate,

Appl. No. 10/665,995
Amdt. Dated June 10, 2005
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which forms a plurality of V-shaped grooves.

Claim 1 now recites in pertinent part that “[a] backlight system comprises a reflection polarizer, which allows light polarized in one certain direction to pass, and reflects light polarized in a direction perpendicular to said one certain direction.”

Applicant now traverses the rejection insofar as it applies to claim 1 as follows:

The backlight system of claim 1 comprises a reflection polarizer formed on a diffusion plate. Gunjima discloses a polarizing sheet formed on a light diffusing sheet. Gunjima does not disclose a reflection polarizer as claimed. Accordingly, claim 1 is submitted to be novel over Gunjima under 35 U.S.C. 102(e).

Further, applicant asserts that there is nothing in the cited reference that teaches or suggests to one of ordinary skill in the art that he or she might or should provide a backlight system having a reflection polarizer and a diffusion plate with a plurality of prisms, as recited in claim 1. Furthermore, the backlight system as

Appl. No. 10/665,995
Amdt. Dated June 10, 2005
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recited in claim 1 produces new and unexpected results. That is, the utilization efficiency of light is increased, because the conversion process generates only loss by reflection. Any losses that would otherwise be caused by absorption in a light guide plate or in a diffusion plate are obviated. Accordingly, claim 1 is submitted to be unobvious and patentable over Gunjima et al under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 are respectfully requested.

Claims 2, and 4-8 depend directly from claim 1, and claim 3 depends indirectly from claim 1. Therefore claims 2-8 should also be allowable.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 103

Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gunjima.

In response to this rejection, applicant traverses as follows:

Claim 9 depends directly from claim 1. As detailed above, claim 1 is asserted to be novel and unobvious over Gunjima, and thus allowable. Therefore

Appl. No. 10/665,995

Amndt. Dated June 10, 2005

Reply to Office Action of March 10, 2005

claim 9 should also be allowable.

Claim Rejection

In the Office Action Summary, claim 10 is stated to be rejected. Applicant notes that at the top of p.3 of the Office action, Examiner states that a brightness enhancement film is disposed between the diffusion plate and the reflection polarizer. Applicant traverses the rejection as follows. Claim 10 depends directly from claim 1. As detailed above, claim 1 is asserted to be novel and unobvious over Gunjima, and thus allowable. Therefore claim 10 should also be allowable.

Allowable Subject Matter

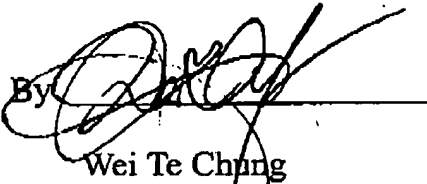
Applicant has amended claims 11 and 12 in respect of various minor grammar and other informalities. The substance of the claimed subject matter remains unchanged, and the allowance should be maintained.

In view of the foregoing, the present application as claimed in the pending claims is considered to be in a condition for allowance, and an action to such effect is earnestly solicited.

Appl. No. 10/665,995
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